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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic apparatus furnished with multiple functions that are remotely controllable by at least a first and second remote controller, said apparatus comprising:

- 5       a first module for activating a first function;  
      a second module for activating a second function; and  
      a control unit for accepting a request from said second remote controller and activating the second function while activating the first function at a request from said first remote controller.
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2. The electronic apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

15       said control unit includes means for accepting a request for said first function while said first function is activated in a case that the request is sent from said first remote controller and rejecting the request for said first function in a case that the request is sent from said second remote controller.

20       3. The electronic apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

25       said control unit includes means for notifying said second remote controller, upon activation of said first function, that said first function has become unavailable.

4. The electronic apparatus according to Claim 3,

wherein:

said control unit includes means for notifying said second controller, upon deactivation of said first function, that said first function has become available.

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5. The electronic apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

storage means for storing control data used to execute exclusive control on two or more of said multiple functions that are not usable concurrently,

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wherein said control unit decides, among all functions other than a given function, which are usable while said given function is activated and which are not, based on the control data stored by said storage means.

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6. The electronic apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein:

said control unit includes means, upon activation of said first function, for notifying said second remote controller that said first function and any function, indicated by the control data as not being usable concurrently with said first function, have become unavailable.

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7. The electronic apparatus according to Claim 6,

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wherein:

said control unit includes means, upon deactivation of said first function, for notifying said second remote

controller that said first function and any function, indicated by the control data as not being usable concurrently with said first function, have become available.

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8. A remote controller used to remotely control an electronic apparatus furnished with multiple functions, said remote controller comprising:

display means;

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receiving means for receiving a notice from said electronic apparatus that one or more than one of said multiple functions has become unavailable; and

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notifying means for notifying a user, through said display means, that said one or more than one function specified in the notice received at said receiving means has become unavailable.

9. The remote controller according to Claim 8, wherein:

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said receiving means includes means for receiving a notice from said electronic apparatus that one or more than one of said multiple functions has become available; and

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said notifying means includes means for notifying the user, through said display means, that said one or more than one function specified in the notice received at said receiving means has become available.

10. The remote controller according to Claim 8 or 9, further comprising:

a control unit for deciding, when a manipulation is performed on said remote controller attempting to control a function of said electronic apparatus, whether the function which is attempted to be controlled by said manipulation is available, and prohibiting transmission of a control signal to said apparatus upon deciding that said function is unavailable.

11. A method of controlling an electronic apparatus having multiple function comprising the steps of:

remotely controlling a first function of said electronic apparatus using a first remote controller;

receiving in said electronic apparatus a request for control of a second function from a second remote controller while said first function is being performed by said electronic apparatus;

determining in said electronic apparatus whether said second function may be operated simultaneously with said first function;

remotely controlling a second function if it is determined that said first function may be simultaneously performed with said first function; and

rejecting the request for the second function if it is determined that said second function may not be simultaneously performed with said first function.

12. The method as recited in claim 11 further

comprising the steps of:

sending a notification signal to said second remote controller upon rejecting the request for the second function.

5           13. The method as recited in claim 12 further comprising the steps of:

sending another notification signal to said second remote controller when said first function is no longer being performed to notify said second remote controller that said  
10 second function may now be performed.

14. The method as recited in claim 12 wherein at least one of an audio and visual indicator is generated by said second remote controller upon receiving said notification signal.

15           15. The method as recited in claim 13 wherein at least one of an audio and visual indicator is generated by said second remote controller upon receiving said other notification signal.

20           16. A method of controlling an electronic apparatus having multiple function comprising the steps of:

transmitting by a remote controller a request signal to said electronic apparatus;

receiving in said remote controller an indicator signal from said electronic apparatus if said request is  
25 rejected by said electronic apparatus; and

providing at said remote controller at least one of a visual and audible indication of receipt of said indicator

signal.

17. The method as recited in claim 16 further comprising the steps of:

5 receiving another indicator signal at said remote controller which indicates that said request would be accepted by said electronic apparatus if said request signal were re-transmitted by said remote controller; and

10 providing at said remote controller at least one of a visual and audible indication of receipt of said another indicator signal.